



## **Union Public Schools**

### **News Release**

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### **Peters Elementary named an Oklahoma Green School**

May 20, 2013 — Peters Elementary School will be recognized at 10 a.m. Friday, May 24, as the first Union school to become an Oklahoma Green School – after students developed plans to grow more trees and cut energy costs. In fact, thanks to students, Peters’ electric bill in March dropped \$1,400 compared to the same time last year.

“Oklahoma Green Schools is an organization that promotes green practices in schools. Fourth grade investigated various aspects of the school site, developed and implemented a plan to improve the green areas,” enrichment specialist Kathy Harding said. “In conjunction with the grounds crew, we planted 14 additional trees and planted flowers out front. Students measured the tree canopy and discovered that less than 1 percent of our outdoor area was covered by trees.”

Fourth graders also studied how well the grounds soaked up water – concrete versus green space, and “we learned that 76 percent of our grounds was pervious and determined that was good.”

The Fifth grade used an assortment of tools to investigate energy usage in the school. “They wrote and performed an assembly challenging students to save energy. Our electric bill for March was \$1,400 lower than last year,” Harding said.

The projects were made possible through learning kits called Green School Investigations provided by Project Learning Tree.

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